

Serial No. 10/791,691
Amdt. dated June 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2007

Docket No. **RPL-0030**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-12 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-10, and 12 are amended, and claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kato et al. (hereinafter “Kato”), U.S. Patent No. 6,376,995, and rejected claims 2-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Lee et al. (hereinafter “Lee”), U.S. Patent No. 6,720,736. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claims 2-3, and claims 2-3 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that neither Kato nor Lee, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Kato does not disclose or suggest at least an auxiliary electrode formed on the address electrode in a portion where the scan electrode and the sustain electrode intersect the address electrode and extended in a direction parallel to the scan electrode and the sustain electrode at the intersecting portion. Lee also fails to disclose or

suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1 and clearly recite the subject matter of the present invention.

That is, Lee discloses that the influence of the auxiliary address electrode 62Xa should be minimized to make the long path discharge between the pair of sustaining electrodes SY and SZ occur with a high efficiency. See Fig. 8 and column 7, lines 42-45 of Lee. Further, Lee discloses that because the address discharge occurs only between the first trigger electrode TY and the auxiliary address electrode 62Xa formed at one side on the address electrode 62X, the influence of the wall charges formed on the address electrode 62X is minimized upon the long path discharge between the pair of sustaining electrodes SY and SZ. See Fig. 8 and column 7, lines 54-60 of Lee. The auxiliary address electrode 62Xa makes address discharge occur stably in the address interval. Therefore, the auxiliary address electrode 62Xa is not formed on the address electrode in a portion where the scan electrode SY and the sustain electrode SZ intersect the address electrode 62X.

Referring, for example, to the exemplary embodiment shown in Figs. 12a and 12b of the present application, by forming the auxiliary address electrodes A1, A2 on the address electrode X in a portion where the scan electrode Y and the sustain electrode Z intersect the address electrode X, upon opposite discharge between the scan electrode Y or the sustain electrode Z and the address electrode X, a large amount of wall charges can be accumulated on a dielectric

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layer of the scan electrode Y and the sustain electrode Z. These wall charge serve to lower the sustain voltage Vs applied upon the sustain discharge.

Accordingly, Kato and Lee, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1, or the claimed combination. Thus, independent claim 1 defines over Kato and Lee. Dependent claims 4-10 define over Kato and Lee at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

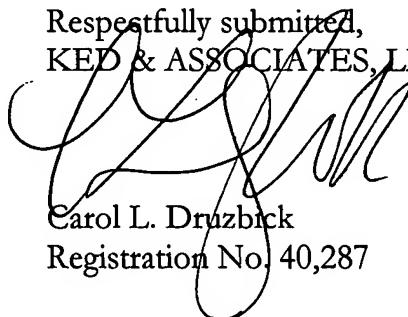
If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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